

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
29 MECHANIC STREET
WIND GAP, PA 18091
863-7288
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, George Hinton, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Jon Faust, David Valley, Kerry Gassler, Tony Curcio, Joe Weaver and Dave Hess. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Gayle Steinmetz. Gayle stated that she wants an update on the cars that are not inspected or have current registration. Chief Armitage replied that he was under the impression that the vehicles were parked on the Borough street. The vehicles in question are parked in a private driveway. The inspection has expired and the owners will take care of that and the other car has the registration sticker it just needs to be put on the car. His officers are aware of the cars, but they cannot ticket a car in the driveway. If they are driving their car and a citation is warranted, one will be issued.

Ron Karasek stated that the ordinance for Wood Street has been drafted and should be completed and advertised for enacted at the mid-month April Council meeting.

2. Alex Cortazzo, 4 Jefferson Street, Wind Gap. Alex asked if there is any interest in the Borough properties. George replied that there is interest, but the Borough has to have a place to move to before selling properties that are currently occupied. Council may have been premature putting the properties out to bid last year. Alex asked if a new social hall has been discussed. George stated that at the weekly building meeting it has been talked about and the Borough Engineer is in the process of preparing bid specifications to determine how much a hall would be to construct. Alex distributed copies of conversation that were posted on Lehigh Valley Live. George replied that a lot of incorrect information has been floating around and he has repeatedly informed everyone that a meeting is held once a week at the new municipal building on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in attending, is welcome to hear firsthand what is being discussed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 Council meeting and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: T. Curcio, J. Faust, K. Gassler, D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley. Abstained: J. Weaver. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported that the Ambulance Corps responded to 85 trips in month of January. The Ambulance Corps is holding a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for EMT Rob Kramer this Sunday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Fire Hall. Rob suffered a brain aneurysm and the Ambulance Corps is trying to raise money to assist him.

2. Fire Company – Jon Faust reported that they responded to 19 calls for the month of February for a year-to-date total of 33. The Fire Company has scheduled their carnival for June 26, 27 and 28, 2014.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that the Zoning Hearing Board met on March 12, 2014 to hear Case 01-2014, Jack Muschlitz. Brian explained that Mr. Muschlitz had submitted a land development plan which had received conditional plan approval for condo/townhouses in clusters of four. Mr. Muschlitz has eliminated townhouses on West Street because of an existing power line that would be too expensive to move. The plans are in violation of the maximum building height of 35'. The Zoning Hearing Board granted the variance because that structure is 41', but occupied space would only be 33'. Brian informed Council that since the variance was granted Mr. Muschlitz will submit the revised land development plans to the Planning Commission and then the plans will come back in front of Council.
4. Planning – George Hinton reported that no new plans were submitted.
5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver reported that the Authority met on February 26, 2014. The owner of Ted's Used Cars was in attendance because he is interested in buying the Galley property. The Sewer Plant experienced some frozen pipes because of the harsh winter weather. Joe reported that the Authority would like to keep the lines of communication open and collaborate on any projects scheduled for this year. They asked if a meeting should be scheduled with the Borough's street committee. Brian will forward a letter that had been previously written to the Authority to Joe for his review. George informed that he had been copied on a letter sent to the Mayor from Plainfield Township asking for a representative from the Wind Gap Municipal Authority to sit on an Environmental Advisory Committee regarding the Little Bushkill Creek. Joe will the Authority to address this issue.
6. Streets – Jon Faust reported on the projects/activities of the street department in the last month. Street Leader, Rich Fox, is asking for approval to attend the annual conference that he attended last year.

On motion by Jon Faust to approve the registration fee of \$65 and travel expense for Rich Fox to attend Road Maintenance and Safety Symposium on April 13 and 14 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich got a quote from Plasterer Equipment for a new Bomag BW100ADM-5 Asphalt Roller under the PA State Contract for \$31,450. Rich explained that roller as having an operating weight of 3,638 lbs, a drum width of 39.5", dual vibratory drums, a Kubota diesel 3 cylinder engine and a pressurized water system. Brian added that if Council were to purchase a roller, Rich and Randy could dig out small portions of Alpha Road at a time, repair the sub-base with either bigger stones or whatever is necessary, compact with 2A modified, put down a base course, and a wearing course on top.

On motion by Joe Weaver to purchase a new Bomag Asphalt Roller under the PA State Contract for \$31,450 and seconded y Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously. Rich will call Plasterer Equipment tomorrow to place the order for the roller.
7. Police - Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Department responded to 93 calls for the month of February, 1 animal complaint, 12 motor vehicle accidents were investigated, they issued 6 traffic citations and 1 parking ticket. Officer Flad attended a three day training course on Investigating and Interviewing Techniques.

8. Park – David Valley reported the park board met on March 11, 2014 and all members were in attendance. Dave stated that they discussed the Christmas lighting in the park. The dog park was questioned as to where it would be, concerns about being muddy, runoff, odor and clean-up. They would like to purchase swings, probably two adult and if purchased they would need to purchase mulch also. They asked if Brian would inform them of Labor and Industry requirements for purchases and for electrical upgrades in the park. Joe added that Wind Gap Athletic Association, Tony Borger, asked to replace the shed. Brian stated that he would need to know the size of the shed and if they wanted to run electric to it in order to look into the code requirements.
9. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.
10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that there has been no change since the last report.
11. Municipal Building – Brian Pysher reported that the HVAC and fire alarm permits were received from Labor and Industry. He is in the process of sending out the proposals for installation of the HVAC units. The CoStars program offers HVAC units so we are further exploring this option of purchasing the units, but not the installation. The original quote for the units from a Trane participating dealer is \$16,000. He is researching other brands to do a comparison of costs. Tyco will be installing the fire alarm system starting on March 27, 2014. He is in the process of completing the review of the plans for the interior steel doors. Brian will be compiling a list of the sheet rock requirements to price that out for the contractor. Eric Butler is providing an estimate for sheet rock installation. Brian thanked Joe for completing the camera specs and will be sending those out to camera installers. Joe said that the cost of the cameras is going down in price even by the month. The committee will be continuing to work on the flooring because originally using flooring throughout was discussed, but once the estimates were received the carpeting is significantly less than the flooring. The power washer contractor was in today cleaning the garage. They were doing a lot of hand washing of the walls, the fans and the light fixtures. Once the weather warms up, Rich and Randy will finish pouring concrete for the sidewalks.
12. Regional Police – Dave Hess reported that a meeting will be held this Thursday with the top candidate for the Police Chief's job. On the agenda tonight he hopes that Council will adopt the Ordinance for the Regional Police Charter Agreement. Plainfield Township has already adopted their ordinance and hopefully Pen Argyl will be doing so at their first meeting in April
13. Park Master Plan – Joe Weaver reported that Louise provided the necessary information for the Master Plan. The first couple steps area actually just forming the committee and drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP). He has already looked at the template to be used and it should work nicely for the committee. The committee currently consists of Kerry Gassler, Joe Weaver and Gina McNamara. He asked if anyone else needs to be involved on the committee. George replied that once the Engineer has been appointed, at that point other members of the community would need to become involved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Slate Belt COG will meet March 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Slate Belt COG office, everyone is welcome to attend. There will GIS training at this month's meeting with John Maher doing the training. The Street Department is out patching and repairing the streets. Please clean up the stones and debris from sidewalks and curbs in front of your property. On March 14, 2014, Mayor Shoemaker participated in Mayor's Meals on Wheels. He asked if anyone is interested in volunteering for this worthwhile organization to contact him after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adoption Ordinance 484 - Slate Belt Regional Police Charter Agreement. Ron Karasek reported that Ordinance 484 has been completed, duly advertised and before Council to take official action.

On motion by Dave Hess to accept and adopt Ordinance 484 which will ultimately result in the formation of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio, J. Faust. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

2. Wind Gap Oil Storage, Inc. Tax Refund. Ron Karasek explained that the Borough received notification from Wind Gap Oil Storage requesting a tax refund for an assessment on the property that was incorrect for the actual acreage. The letter was sent to Northampton County, Pen Argyl School District, Plainfield Township and Wind Gap Borough because all four entities were paid taxes. Council discussed this issue based on Attorney Karasek's suggested actions.

On motion by Joe Weaver to let Northampton County figure out this issue and follow their lead regarding the tax refund request from Wind Gap Oil Storage, Inc. and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Dave Hess asked if anything has been done with the sinkhole on Lehigh Avenue. Although Brian has not done a survey, he did say that in his opinion the sinkhole looks to be entirely on private property. The alley is ordained at 12' wide, but there is 20' of gravel in that alley. Ron advised that if the sinkhole is on private property the acting Zoning Officer could send an enforcement notice based on the nuisance ordinance. Brian estimates that a survey should cost less than \$1,000 to complete.

On motion by Kerry Gassler to authorize the Borough Engineer to do a survey to determine location of the sinkhole and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Chief Armitage asked if Council would authorize the purchase an air conditioning unit for the Police Station. They currently have two units, one window unit and one unit that is secured in the wall. The Chief also asked if the carpet could be cleaned. Louise will contact Vanguard Cleaning Service to inquire about carpet cleaning in the station.

On motion by Dave Hess to purchase two (2) air conditioning units for the Police Station and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. In favor: J. Weaver, T. Curcio, J. Faust, D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

5. Welcome Sign. Dave Valley stated that sign at the top of Wind Gap hill needs to be reconditioned. He received a quote of \$650 to do the work.

On motion by Kerry Gassler to recondition the Welcome To Wind Gap Sign at the top of Wind Gap hill at a cost of \$650 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Garbage - 347 Alpha Road, Wind Gap. Kerry asked for an update regarding the enforcement notice sent to 347 Alpha Road. Brian reported that the resident did sign for the enforcement notice. The Chief did cite the resident for the garbage. Brian has reviewed the nuisance ordinance regarding the vehicles. Chief Armitage and Brian will schedule a day to go to the property to look at the vehicles and determine if there is a violation in relation to the ordinance.

The ordinance allows for a sliding fine of \$100 to \$1,000 a day. Council asked Chief Armitage to keep track of the number of days that the garbage is sitting on the property.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of March 18, 2014. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of March 18, 2014 adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator